

## Old Silo Blower Makes Great Farm Snowblower

"It throws snow 40 to 50 feet, is maintenance-free, and cost less than \$300 to build," says Clarence Becker, Curtiss, Wis., about the snowblower he built using an old Gehl silo blower.

The pto-powered rig mounts on the 3-pt. of Becker's 95 hp Oliver 1850 tractor. A homemade auger, fitted with 2 by 2-ft. sq. paddles, pulls snow into the 4 ft. dia., 5-bladed blower. The paddles consist of 3-in. wide blades that mount on a 4 by 4-in. steel tube with a 1 1/4-in. shaft running through its center. Blades on each half of the auger are slanted in opposite directions. As the blades rotate, they spiral toward the center of the auger, pulling snow into the blower. A hydraulically operated top spout above the 9-in. blower opening rotates 180°.

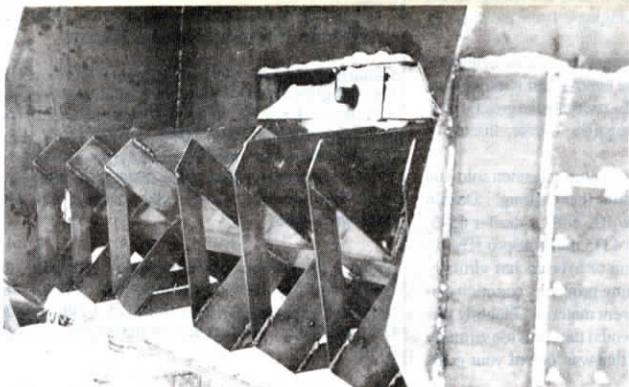
The silo blowers give Becker's rig more capacity than comparably-sized conventional snowblowers, says Becker, who runs the blower at 540 rpm. "If my

tractor was equipped with 1,000 rpm, I probably could double my present snowblowing capacity."

Another advantage of using a silo blower in snow is that its shear pin-protected, notes Becker. "If a chunk of ice gets into the blower or if the top opening blocks up, you'll break the shear pin instead of bending the auger blades."

In operation, the tractor's pto shaft drives an enclosed chain, which runs a sprocket and gearbox removed from an old silage chopper. Becker says he might enlarge the blower opening to 12 in. to increase capacity, and then operate the blower with a tractor equipped with 1,000 rpm pto. "The blower's bearings are built heavy enough to take the extra load," he says.

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## He "Put Together" A 300 HP Tractor For Just \$12,500

Dennis Katterheinrich, New Knoxville, Ohio, bought a used Massey Ferguson 1805 tractor for \$10,000, replacing the blown engine with a Detroit 8V-71 engine and 13 speed road ranger transmission from an old semi truck. The engine and transmission cost \$2,500 so Katterheinrich spent a total of \$12,500 for the 300 hp tractor.

The original transfer case was used. Katterheinrich lengthened the hood and frame of the tractor by 12 in. to accommodate the added length of the engine and transmission and installed dual exhaust stacks. Otherwise, the tractor looks original. "I use it for field cultivating, moldboard plowing and chisel plowing," he notes.



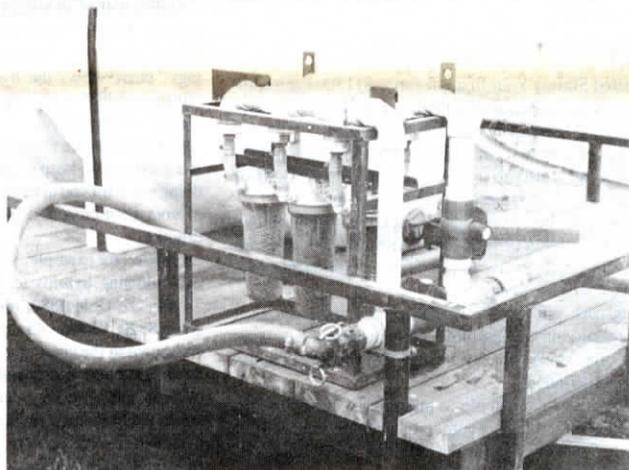
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Harold M. Johnson, Editor in Chief, Director



## "Super Filter" Heads Off Sprayer Problems

A "super filter" for sprayers, built from conventional well water filter traps, virtually eliminates clogged nozzles and the resulting exposure to chemicals for Dave White and Jim Spelman, Farmersville, Ill.

White and Spelman mounted three 9-in. long by 2-in. dia. filters on an angle iron frame. The three filters divide up the flow of water which is controlled by inlet and outlet valves. The filtering unit mounts on the bed of a tandem truck equipped with three tanks. By pulling a single pin, the farmers can remove the unit for use on other spray tanks.

White and Spelman carry all water and chemicals on a tandem axle truck. A rear-mounted 1,500 gal. tank contains

water. Two up-front 500-gal. tanks carry mixed solution.

"We've set up the system so we have minimum exposure to chemicals," notes White. "We pump water out of the rear 1,500 gal. tank, through the filters, and into one of the 500 gal. tanks where we mix the chemicals. Flow capacity of the filter unit is about 60-70 gpm so we fill the up-front tanks at the slower rate and then pump out to spray tanks at 250 gpm. We change the throw-away filters about twice a day. Total cost was \$100 for off-the-shelf parts from a local farm supply store."

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